

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

THE WALLA WALLA COUNTRY CLUB, a)
Washington corporation,) NO. CV-13-5101-LRS
)
)
Plaintiff,) ORDER RE EXPEDITED MOTION FOR
) PROTECTIVE ORDER
)
-vs-)
)
PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER &)
LIGHT COMPANY, an Oregon)
corporation,)
)
Defendant.)
)

BEFORE THE COURT is Defendant's Motion to Expedite (ECF No. 20) and Defendant's Motion for Protective Order (ECF No. 21), filed on February 20, 2014 and noted for February 27, 2014.

Defendant PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power & Light Company ("PacifiCorp") moves for a Protective Order staying discovery pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 26(c)(1). PacifiCorp requests that the stay on discovery remain in place until after the Court enters an order on PacifiCorp's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction (ECF No. 11) filed on December 12, 2013 and set for hearing on March 13, 2014 ("Motion to Dismiss"), with oral argument in Yakima, Washington.

1 The central issue to PacifiCorp's motion to stay discovery is whether
2 PacifiCorp should be required to undertake the significant time and
3 expense of responding to several detailed interrogatories and requests
4 for production when WWCC's case is likely to be dismissed for lack of
5 subject matter jurisdiction. PacifiCorp has provided authority that it
6 should not be required to incur significant expense while its motion to
7 dismiss is pending, and that a stay of discovery is appropriate in this
8 situation. *Little v. City of Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1988).

9 Plaintiff Walla Walla Country Club ("Plaintiff") opposes the length
10 of stay requested by PacifiCorp, but argues a reasonable resolution would
11 be a limited extension, with PacifiCorp's responses being due on March
12 20, 2014. Plaintiff asserts that even if PacifiCorp's Motion to Dismiss
13 is granted, that motion will not conclude or end this dispute, which
14 would then proceed in a State administrative forum, rather than in a
15 Federal court. ECF No. 23, at 3.

17 PacifiCorp replies that an administrative proceeding in front of the
18 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("WUTC") would be
19 governed by its procedural rules and Washington's Administrative
20 Procedures Act ("APA"). Under the WUTC's regulations and Washington's
21 APA, discovery is allowed in an adjudicative proceeding, but is governed
22 by different standards and regulations than in federal court. See WAC
23 480-07-400 to 425; RCW 34.05. As such, responses prepared in Plaintiff's
24 federal proceeding would not necessarily be applicable to the state
25 administrative proceeding. ECF No. 24, at 2.

The Court has reviewed the arguments and is fully informed. The Court finds that a limited stay of discovery is appropriate in this situation to further the goal of efficiency for the court and litigants.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Defendant's Motion to Expedite, **ECF No. 20**, is **GRANTED**.
 2. Defendant's Motion for Protective Order, **ECF No. 21**, filed on February 20, 2014, is **GRANTED**. Discovery is hereby stayed pending the Court's ruling on Defendant's Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 11).

The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order.

DATED this 27th day of February, 2014.

s/Lonny R. Suko

LONNY R. SUKO
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE